

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 185975
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EUR:SOV:SMCCALL

APPROVED BY EUR;GVEST

EA/K - FMISCH EA:ROAKLEY

S/MS - MSHULMAN

PM:FWBARNETT

EUR - WHLUERS

S/AR:RGDAMMAN

P: PKREISBERG

NSC: MR. HYLAND

S/S:JETHYDEN

-----016991 062037Z /65

O R 062016Z AUG 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

S E C R E T STATE 185975

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UR, KN, KS, PBOR, PLOS

SUBJECT: APPROACH TO SOVIETS ON KOREAN MILITARY SEA
BOUNDARY

REF: MOSCOW 11197

T

1. AMBASSADOR IS INSTRUCTED TO SEEK AN APPOINTMENT AT A
HIGH LEVEL IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TO RAISE THE ASSERTION BY
NORTH KOREA OF A MILITARY SEA BOUNDARY IN EXTENSION OF ITS
TERRITORIAL WATERS.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 185975

2. THE AMBASSADOR SHOULD MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS, WHICH
AT HIS DISCRETION MAY BE LEFT WITH THE MINISTRY AS A NON-
PAPER:

--THE US AND USSR HAVE LONG BEEN IN CLOSE AGREEMENT ON
THE IMPORTANT PRINCIPLE OF FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION. WE HAVE

PARALLELED ONE ANOTHER IN THE POSITIONS WE HAVE TAKEN ON THIS PRINCIPLE IN THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE. OUR MUTUAL ADHERENCE TO THAT PRINCIPLE, AND THE COMMON INTEREST WE HAVE IN DEFENDING IT AGAINST ENCROACHMENTS, HAVE MANY TIMES BEEN NOTED IN BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS AND EXCHANGES OF VIEWS BETWEEN US.

--THE UNITED STATES VIEWS WITH CONCERN THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE NORTH KOREAN AUTHORITIES ON AUGUST 1 THAT PYONGYANG ASSERTS A "MILITARY BOUNDARY" IN EXTENSION OF ITS TERRITORIAL WATERS EXTENDING UP TO 50 MILES FROM THE STARTING LINE OF THE TERRITORIAL WATERS IN THE EAST AND IN THE WEST UP TO THE BOUNDARY LINE OF THE "ECONOMIC SEA ZONE" DECLARED BY THE NORTH KOREAN AUTHORITIES ON JULY 1. THESE AUTHORITIES ASSERT THAT FOREIGN MILITARY VESSELS AND AIRCRAFT ARE PROHIBITED FROM CROSSING THIS MILITARY BOUNDARY, AND THAT CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT AND VESSELS, EXCLUDING FISHING BOATS, ARE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE AREA ONLY WITH PRIOR AGREEMENT OR APPROVAL.

--THE UNITED STATES ON AUGUST 2 INFORMED THE NORTH KOREAN AUTHORITIES THAT IT DOES NOT ACCEPT THIS UNILATERAL ANNOUNCEMENT WHICH SEEKS TO IMPOSE CONTROLS OVER FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION ON AND OVERFLIGHT OF THE HIGH SEAS.

--IN PROMPTLY REJECTING THIS ASSERTION OF A "MILITARY SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 185975

BOUNDARY" THE UNITED STATES HAS REAFFIRMED ITS ADHERENCE TO AND SUPPORT OF THE PRINCIPLE OF FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION. THE UNITED STATES ASSUMES THAT THE SOVIET UNION ALSO CONSIDERS THE ACTION OF THE NORTH KOREAN AUTHORITIES TO BE UNACCEPTABLE AND HAS OR WILL MAKE THAT CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD TO THOSE SAME AUTHORITIES WITH A VIEW TO HAVING THIS ASSERTION OF A "MILITARY BOUNDARY" PROMPTLY RESCINDED.

3. THE AMBASSADOR SHOULD ASK WHAT THE USSR HAS DONE OR INTENDS TO DO, MAKING IT CLEAR THAT A MATTER OF SHARED PRINCIPLE IS INVOLVED HERE, WHICH GOES BEYOND THE QUESTION OF NORTH KOREA. WHILE MOSCOW'S RELATIONSHIP WITH PYONGYANG IS UNDERSTOOD, THAT UNDERSTANDING EXTENDS TO THE MODALITIES WHICH THE SOVIETS MAY CHOOSE, AND NOT TO THE PRACTICAL MATTER OF THEIR UPHOLDING PRINCIPLE AND EFFECTIVELY BACKING THE NORTH KOREANS OFF THIS ACTION.

4. FYI: THE DEPARTMENT IS ENCOURAGED BY THE INDICATIONS THUS FAR TO THINK THAT THE SOVIETS LOOK ASKANCE AT PYONGYANG'S MOVE (REFTEL). WHILE WE APPRECIATE THAT THEY WILL NOT WANT TO TAKE A STRONG LEAD OR TO EXPLICITLY BACK OUR PROTEST, AND THAT WHAT CHINA DOES MAY IN PART DETERMINE

SOVIET ACTION, WE BELIEVE IT COSTS US NOTHING TO ASK THEM
TO WEIGH IN, AND THAT WE SHOULD USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO
HOLD THE SOVIETS TO AN AGREED PRINCIPLE OF FUNDAMENTAL
CONCERN TO BOTH THEM AND US. CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TERRITORIAL WATERS, LAW OF THE SEA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE185975
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SOV:SMCCALL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770283-0363
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770888/aaaacwhh.tel
Line Count: 120
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a4e35160-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 MOSCOW 11197
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1681726
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: APPROACH TO SOVIETS ON KOREAN MILITARY SEA BOUNDARY
TAGS: PBOR, PLOS, UR, KN, KS
To: MOSCOW
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a4e35160-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009